

# Proposed bill, threatens to restrict internet freedom

TOMAS ROY  
*Staff Reporter*

In an effort to reduce online piracy, Congress recently attempted to pass two bills, SOPA, the Stop Online Piracy Act, and PIPA, or PROTECT IP, that would allow the censorship of websites offering pirated content to internet users. These laws recently received attention from large internet companies such as Google and Wikipedia who found them obtrusive. Because of these companies' open protest of the bills, conversation about and against SOPA and PIPA became very popular among internet users, including many students at Charlotte Catholic.

Most discussion among students occurred online on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Several students followed the example that Google and Wikipedia set by censoring their websites and blocked their own profile pictures to demonstrate what a censored internet would look like. Links to websites about these bills also covered Facebook for several days.

However, many popular websites protesting SOPA and PIPA fail to offer an accurate and complete description of the effects these bills would have on the public, pirates



POPULAR WEBSITES LIKE LIMEWIRE AND MEGAUPLOAD UNDER THE SOPA LAW BECAUSE IT LIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES JURISDICTION. PHOTO: 72-MULTIVERSE.BLOGSPOT.COM

and non-pirates alike. Clay Shirky, a noted expert on internet issues, discussed these bills in light of the history of efforts of media producers looking to prevent the copying of their copyrighted materials since the invention of the tape recorder. He offers a much more detailed description of the nature of these bills.

Shirky describes how SOPA and PIPA would damage one of the internet's greatest capabilities: allowing average users to create something and share it with

others. "[Media companies] want to raise the cost of copyright compliance to the point where people simply get out of the business of offering [copying] as a capability to amateurs" said Shirky.

These bills would first remove sites that host pirated material from the United States domain name system, or DNS.

For example, visitors of ThePirateBay.org, a search engine and host of pirated material would no longer be allowed to reach the site with that address. However, this would solve almost nothing, because users looking for pirated material could simply enter in The Pirate Bay's IP address, 194.71.107.15, and reach the same content.

However, under the next level of censorship, websites linking to The Pirate Bay's IP address would face the threat of being shut down

for having links to copyrighted material. All websites that allow public sharing of any kind would need to police their user's posts and uploads of both links to content and the content itself.

To a certain degree, this requirement already exists, but it doesn't create a significant strain on websites who allow and promote sharing. However, according to Shirky, SOPA and PIPA take "a centuries-old legal concept, innocent until proven guilty, and [reverse] it, guilty until proven innocent." A great variety of online sharing companies would face the crippling cost of having to independently police all of their content to avoid censorship and many would either charge significant fees for their users or simply go out of business.

A class of students was asked whether they would be willing to sacrifice using online programs like Facebook or Twitter for free in order to see piracy come to an end and ensure that content producers receive full payment for their work. Students unanimously responded that they wouldn't pay for Facebook if it cost money. "We just wouldn't use [Facebook] anymore. We'd find something else," said sophomore Hailey Altman.

However, now that SOPA and PIPA have been withdrawn

from Congress, American media producers still face a significant threat of their digital property being stolen. In fact, out of ten students that were asked if they downloaded music for free, seven responded yes.

Shirky suggests the only efficient solution to reduce piracy is to ensure that pirating websites that can be individually prosecuted under US law are dealt with.

In the last two years, these efforts have proven successful. The well known music sharing software Limewire was sued and later shut down in October 2010. In addition, only days after Google and Wikipedia's demonstrations, the FBI arrested the CEO of MegaUpload.com, a music and movie sharing site that received over 50 million daily visitors, and the site was immediately shut down.

Both Limewire and MegaUpload could be shut down because they operated within US jurisdiction. Sites like ThePirateBay, which is based in Sweden, are completely unaffected by US copyright laws.

At this point, because of the nature of the internet, media companies must accept that a certain degree of piracy is simply a part of releasing digital content.

# Women's swim team brings home state title, men's finishes second

TYLER SCHILLY  
*Staff Reporter*

The men's and women's swim teams continued their dominance this February in the state meet. The women placed first for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and the men finished second for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

For the women's team the state championship was a fitting culmination for a season in which they were not defeated. The competition grew tougher as the season went on, but the Cougars raised their level of performance and came out on top.

"This year, we won every meet including conference, regionals,

and states. We didn't face very tough competition until regionals where our biggest competition was Marvin Ridge. Going into states, we thought we were going to have competition from Chapel Hill, but Marvin Ridge ended up placing second behind us," said junior swimmer Anna Dettmer.

Even though the men's team wasn't able to defeat Cardinal Gibbons, its top competition the past four years, the boys achieved many of their goals during one of their most grueling seasons yet.

"Practices this season were a lot tougher than in past seasons. The team puts in thousands of yards in the pool everyday to work towards our ultimate goal: to be state champs," said junior Matthew Rigali.

The men's team also continued the long running tradition of shaving each member's head before the state meet. The swimmers believe that this helps them swim faster, and some of them also enjoy the appearance of the buzz cut.

"The buzz has a period of awesomeness followed by a significant period of sucking. It gets cold up there, but it's worth it to keep the tradition. Plus, everyone knows we have the best heads in the school," said Rigali.

Both teams credit hard work, good coaching, and team unity for their sustained success.

"I think, aside from talent that we've been blessed with, we all share the same passion for the sport. Swimming requires an endless

amount of time in the pool, so you grow close with your team and become a family. I think this has helped the team accomplish so much," said Dettmer.

"The team is like a group of weird brothers. We spend so much time together as a team, at our highs and lows, always working hard, that we've grown to be like a fun, dysfunctional family. I'm just glad to be a part of the family every season," said Rigali.

With both teams currently on such impressive streaks of success, the outlook for next season is positive. Underclassmen are expected to step up to replace the seniors that are graduating this spring, and the swim team plans to continue its dominance for years to come.

"Next year will be a very interesting year for the team. While we'll lose a huge group of seniors, the team this year made some huge strides and Gibbons will be rebuilding. I think this team is capable of anything it sets its mind to, and we'll find a way to come out on top next February," said Rigali, who will return to the men's team next season.

"Even though we will be losing some wonderful seniors, I think the swim team will remain strong. I know after this year, we have set some pretty high standards for next year, but I think our past accomplishments prove that we know how to succeed," said Dettmer of the women's team.

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# Features

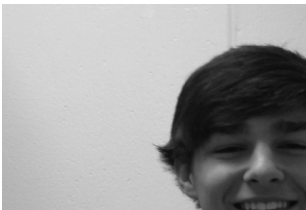
## Charlotte Catholic’s Most Eligible Bachelors

EMILY FOSTER AND  
KYLIE RYAN  
*Staff Reporters*

*These bachelors are single and ready to mingle. We asked these studs a few questions to help all those single ladies out there get to know more about what a guy looks for in a date.*

### Freshman Clayton Lozzi

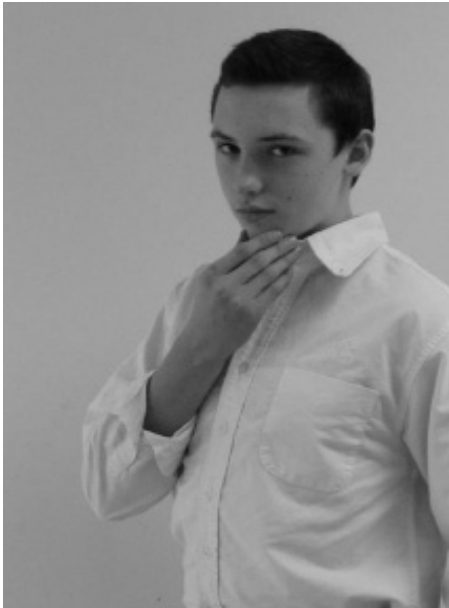
CC: What do you want in a woman?  
CL:I obviously want a woman who can make a good sandwich, and legitimately make me laugh, those are the two most important parts of good woman for me.  
CC: Favorite candle scent?  
CL: My favorite candle scent would have to be Cotton Blossom because it reminds me of the good days.  
CC: What is your idea of a perfect date?  
CL: My idea of a perfect date would have to be anything outside in the late afternoon and being able to talk to someone for a really long time and not be awkward.  
CC: Biggest turnoff in a girl?  
CL: Girls that honestly use LOL in a text or girls that have really annoying laughs.  
CC: Blondes, Brunettes, or Redheads?  
CL: Monday: Blondes, Tuesday: Brunettes, Wednesday: Redheads, and then it just repeats.  
CC: Favorite Justin Bieber song?  
CL: All are wonderful.  
CC: Worst first date?  
CL: I don’t know if the date



starts off bad, I just leave.  
CC: If you were a salad, what kind of dressing would you have?  
CL: A kind of dressing that is amazing and everyone loves...  
CC: What is your biggest pet peeve?  
CL: My biggest pet peeve is when people like brag about how long they stayed up the night before.  
CC: Looks or personality?  
CL: I would have to say personality.  
annoying person, then it will never workout.  
CC: What is your opinion of Tim Tebow?  
CL: Well as a quarterback I feel he runs a lot more than he should, he’s the size of a tight end so really all he is, is a tight end that lines up in the wildcat, but as a person I think he is a really nice guy, he’s not afraid to show his faith.  
CC: What do you consider your best feature?  
CL: Honestly I have no idea what my best feature is, that’s for you to decide ;)  
CC: What is your high score on Temple Run?  
CL: Well I’m absolutely terrible at that game but my high score is 1,708,235.

### Sophomore Nolan Hedglin

CC:What do you want in a woman?  
NH:I want her to be very skilled in the kitchen, but not an idiot.  
CC:Favorite candle scent?  
NH:Bacon. It’s a legit candle  
CC:What is your idea of a perfect date?  
NH: My idea of a perfect date would definitely be watching a movie and eating Nutella together at somebody’s house.  
CC:Biggest turnoff in a girl?  
NH: I hate it when girls think they’re amazing and that they deserve the best treatment.  
Sure, they deserve to be treated nicely but they shouldn’t get angry if a guy has no idea what he did wrong because it’s most likely an extremely dumb thing.  
I also dislike women who think they’re such high and mighty feminists and that they should be recognized as perfect since they’re a woman with good grades.  
CC: Blondes, Brunettes, or



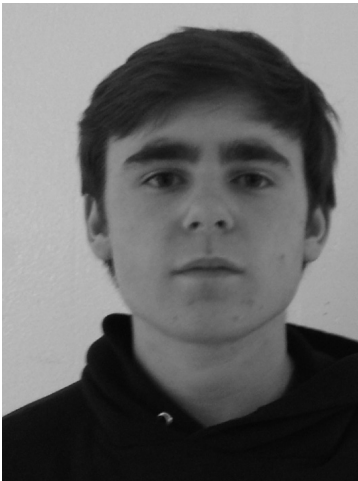
Redheads?  
NH: All of them are fine. Hair color doesn’t make a girl a certain way  
CC: Favorite Justin Bieber song?  
NH: That is definitely a hard decision considering I like all Justin Bieber songs, but I would have to say “One Less Lonely Nub”  
CC: Worst 1st date?  
NH: Alyssa and I were on a

date and it started to rain. How tragic. So we went inside Starbucks...  
CC: What is your biggest pet peeve?  
NH: When people misuse the word pet peeve.  
CC: Looks or personality?  
NH: Personality is going to win over me over.  
CC: What is your opinion of Tim Tebow?  
NH: Grace says Tebow before meals instead of the other way around.  
CC: What do you consider your best feature?  
NH: Everything. Let’s get real. I’m the bomb.  
CC: What is your high score on Temple Run?  
NH: I don’t play temple run because only cool kids play it. I get really nervous around cool kids.

### Junior Thomas King

CC: What do you look for in a girl?  
TK: “Definitely someone who is physically dominant to me, very hairy, big thighs, and short haircut.”  
CC: Favorite Candle Scent  
TK: Lavender  
CC: Perfect Date  
TK: “Well we would start the night off at my house playing X-box, then we would go to Sky High, then we’d top the night off with some more X-box, and then my mom and I would drive her home; she would be in the backseat.”  
CC: Blondes, brunettes, or red heads?  
TK: “Obviously red heads.”  
CC: Favorite Lady Gaga Song?  
TK: Disco Stick  
CC: Most embarrassing moment?  
TK: Blind date... with a dude.  
CC: Favorite Color?

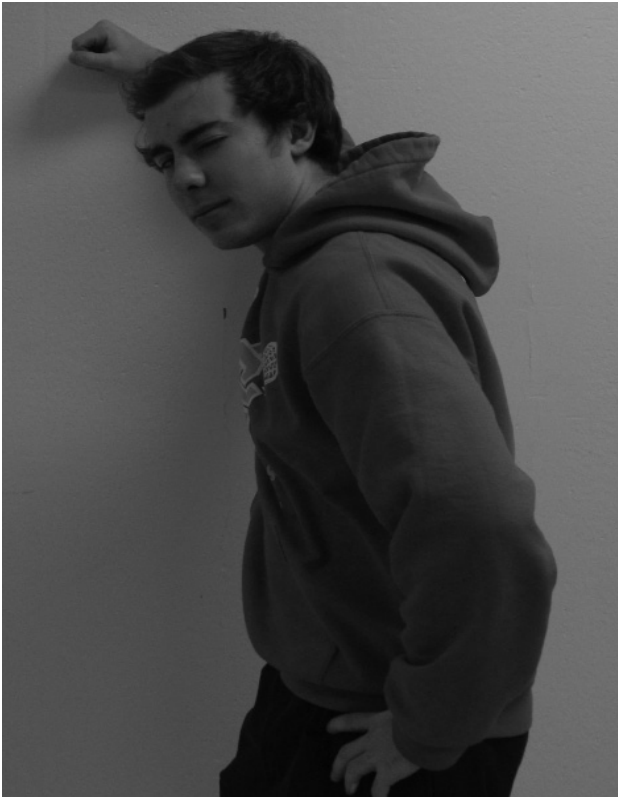
TK: Gold  
CC: Chocolate or Vanilla?  
TK: Chocolate  
CC: Would you ever use Christianmingles.com to find a mate?  
TK: Yes, totally. When blind dates don’t work christianmingles.com does



### Senior Hearthrob Tim Egan

CC: What do you look for in a girl?  
TE: Honesty, personality, lack of mustache, and money.  
CC: Favorite Candle Scent  
TE: Cinnamon  
CC: Favorite Date Idea  
TE: “Go-karts. I’ve never done it but it sounds like a good idea.”  
CC: Blondes, brunettes, or red heads?  
TE: Brunettes  
CC: Boxers or briefs?  
TE: Boxers  
CC: Favorite Lady Gaga song?  
TE: “Poker face, mostly because it’s the only one I know”  
CC: Most Embarrassing Moment?  
TE: “I’ve suppressed that from my memory.”  
CC: Favorite Color?  
TE: Blue  
CC: What do you dream about at night?  
TE: Horses.  
CC: Chocolate or Vanilla?  
TE: Chocolate  
CC: Would you ever use Christianmingles.com to find a

mate?  
TE: “I’m more of an eharmony kind of guy.”



# Features

## Inspired by young cancer patient, two students start “Butterfly Kisses” organization

KERRI HUGHES  
*Staff Reporter*

Every day, almost fifty children are diagnosed with cancer, and seven will die as a result of it. Every day. After watching a young loved one suffer and pass away from this horrible disease, Juniors Lindsay Kunik and Holly Walsh decided to take a stand. They have since then began their own nonprofit organization, Butterfly Kisses Care Baskets. These girls didn't just settle

for a small organization, either. “We’re a real thing,” said Holly. “We have a lawyer and pay taxes and everything.” But what does Butterfly Kisses do? “We try to bring joy to children that are suffering from cancer or another terminal illness,” Lindsay said. “We started in 2009 and make care baskets for those kids with things to make them happy, as well as raise money to help fund research for new treatments.” Butterfly Kisses all started with

an eight year old girl named Ellie, who inspired Lindsay and Holly to become proactive. After struggling with a rare form of cancer, Ellie passed away in June of 2010. This young, brave girl continues to be the driving force behind the organization. Lindsay even wears a necklace with Ellie’s name engraved on a heart-shaped pendent in remembrance of her. “I remember walking out of her funeral, and realizing that I couldn’t not have anyone to focus on,” Holly said. “I knew that I had to help more kids like her. She pointed us in the direction of other kids in need.” And help they did. Since starting, Lindsay and Holly have gone from helping one child with nothing but babysitting money to being involved with over 36 families, and an accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In addition, they also gift care baskets to the siblings of the sick kids,

not wanting them to feel forgotten. In order to fund their mission, they accept donations and sell rubber bracelets, similar to the yellow Livestrong bands from the Lance Armstrong Foundation. “We’re also planning a drive later this year,” Lindsay said. “It will benefit us, and a foundation to conduct research for treatments and cures. We don’t know which one yet, but it will be one that will use the money specifically for that reason.” In addition to raising money, Butterfly Kisses also hopes to raise awareness of childhood cancer, and has done so through the bracelets and social media. “We’re pretty easy to find. You can go to [www.butterflykissescarebasket.com](http://www.butterflykissescarebasket.com), and there, we have links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts,” said Lindsay. Looks like the effort of spreading the word has worked. “We have a lot of people in the US—even in California—that send us letters and stuff,” said Holly. “We have way more support than I ever thought. We’ve even been in the Charlotte Observer twice.”

So what’s next for Butterfly Kisses? “We want to hopefully continue to reach to more kids, and help more on the medical aspect,” said Lindsay. “We need to grow bigger to make a big difference, and to make our donations substantial, because there hasn’t been a new treatment developed in almost 32 years.” Holly has high hopes for the organization as well. “One day, we’re going to be on Ellen,” she joked. “We wanted to do Oprah, but now she’s done, so that probably won’t happen.” From the looks of it, Butterfly Kisses won’t be disappearing anytime soon. Since they are now an official organization, dissolving everything would be very costly. But that doesn’t matter to Holly and Lindsay, because they say that they won’t ever stop doing what they do. “We’re definitely going to go far,” Lindsay said. “We want to develop different branches wherever we can. It won’t be our job, but we always want to do it. I’d also be up for selling the bracelets in school, if people want them.”



PHOTO CREDIT: BUTTERFLYKISSESCAREBASKET.COM

## Senior Nayaj Molina masters the sport of Jiu-Jitsu

RORY QUIGLEY  
*Staff Reporter*

Senior Nayaj Molina has distanced herself from conventional sports, into an exotic martial arts form called Jiu-Jitsu. Beginning her career freshman year, Nayaj has been training and competing in Jiu-Jitsu tournaments, or nagas, for almost four years. The combat sport can be compared to wresting, and focuses on ground fighting especially grappling, for competition or self-defense. She was first introduced to the art by her father, who also competes as well as coaches other pupils. “My dad has been doing it for a long time. He travels to Atlanta almost every month to compete,” said Molina. While her father competes more regularly, Nayaj only competes in Charlotte based nagas, which are held about every sixth months. The sport teaches that anyone of any size can bring down a taller, stronger opponent using leverage and the right technique. More than anything, this draws Nayaj to the sport most of all. “You don’t have to be big in order to participate in the sport. Because I’m so small there aren’t usually other girls in my weight class and I’ll have to compete with much bigger people, but I can usually win through the techniques that I have been taught,” said Molina. Even with years of practice, Nayaj remains only a white belt, the first rank of Jiu-Jitsu and other martial art forms. It

will take her twenty five years in order to move through the ranking and achieve the iconic black belt, meaning the mastery of the art. Jiu-Jitsu consists of many different wrestling holds that test both competitors endurance and physical limits on the body. “The most demanding part about Jiu-Jitsu is knowing when to give in and give up. During competitions and even training sessions, a lot of people pass out and it can sometimes be very dangerous,” said Nayaj. Nayaj remains devoted to the sport, but with practicing six days a week with three hours loing training sessions she has been tempted to quit the sport all together. “With such long practices, it takes a lot of commitment and last year I was truly thinking about quitting. It takes a lot out of you, but it’s very rewarding,” said Nayaj. Nayaj practices at Ballaltyne Kicks with twelve others and only two other girls in an intermediate class. She wishes to continue her love of the martial art and one day receive her black belt.



MOLINA IS A DETERMINED ATHLETE WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING JIU-JITSU  
PHOTO CREDIT: NAYAJ MOLINA

## New Student Spotlight: Jeff Ciesielski

TYLER SCHILLY  
*Staff Reporter*

Having recently moved to Charlotte, junior Jeff Ciesielski has spent the last few weeks adjusting to life at Charlotte Catholic. Jeff’s father had been working in Charlotte and living in Atlanta for the last seven years, but in January the company decided that he and his family needed to live here. This meant that the Ciesielskis had to find a new school for Jeff and his sister Jenni, who is a freshman at Catholic. A family friend and a visit to Charlotte helped them in this decision process. “My mom heard about Charlotte Catholic from my sister’s friend who swims with her at the University of Tennessee and she decided to send my sister and me here after visiting,” said Jeff. Jeff has enjoyed his first couple of weeks here, but acknowledges that there are many differences between Charlotte and Atlanta. “Charlotte is definitely smaller but it also seems newer. And Lassiter is a public school with over 2000 students, so size and the Catholic influence are the main differences between my old school and Charlotte Catholic,” he said. One way Jeff has achieved normalcy is through baseball. He was a standout player for Lassiter High School last year, and the timing of his arrival in Charlotte coincided with the beginning of Catholic’s varsity baseball workouts. By going to these workouts he has been able to meet new kids and at the same time participate in something he really enjoys. Jeff is confident that he can make an impact on Catholic’s team, and has



JEFF IS A JUNIOR, READY TO TAKE ON CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC AND PLAY ON THE VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM.  
PHOTO CREDIT: AVERY SHAW

set high standards for himself. “My goals are to make the team, win the conference, go deep in the playoffs, and produce to the best of my abilities,” he said. When Jeff isn’t playing baseball he likes listening to 90’s music, rap, and country. His favorite meal includes fried chicken and lemonade from Publix, a grocery store in Atlanta. His favorite color is purple, his favorite class is Spanish, and he wants to major in either accounting or economics in college. Finally, one of the biggest problems Jeff faced when he moved here was teaching a whole new set of people how to pronounce his outrageously spelled last name. He’s heard thousands of different mispronunciations, and has grown

used to the bewilderment of his teachers when they first see his name on the attendance list. So, for the record, it is pronounced SI-SELL-SKEE. Say it right when you first meet him and he might just give you a hug.

# Features

## Pinterest grabs students’ attention

KELLY COOK  
*Staff Reporter*

Move over Facebook and Twitter, there’s a new internet craze coming through. Pinterest has jumped to the front of the pack in the last couple of months, enticing girls with the opportunity to share their favorite “pins.”

Pinterest provides users with virtual pinboards where they can organize collections of images into different categories. The pages of pins are endless, with photos of everything from dessert recipes to fashion inspirations.

According to the tracking firm Hitwise, Pinterest has just become one of the Web’s Top ten social networks, and numbers continue to grow everyday. Though it has been around for nearly two years, the site was largely unknown until recently.

Before getting started, Pinterest makes it clear that it’s not like other websites. You can’t just sign up and have a pinboard magically appear before you. Oh no, you have to receive an invitation. After entering your email, Pinterest sends you an invite when it’s ready to receive you.

The wait, however, can take anywhere from a couple of days to an entire week.

After receiving your exclusive email and a list of rules explaining what’s appropriate on the site, you are free to begin your pinning. From then on, it never stops.

For many students here at school, “pinning” has become a daily habit.

In addition to having countless images to choose from, users are also given no restrictions regarding the amount of items they can “repin” in a day.

The wonder of Pinterest, however, lies in the fact that so much can be done in a remarkably short amount of time. Instead of



STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR FREE TIME ON PINTEREST.  
PHOTO CREDIT: KELLY COOK

hours on Facebook, users can spend a mere 20 minutes on Pinterest and gather inspiration from a variety of images.

For Junior Jenn Holder, Pinterest has become a part of her regular routine.

“I have a hardcore pinning session everyday. It’s so quick and easy so I don’t have to waste a ton of time on there. It’s a very creative site and there are so many pretty

things,” said Holder.

The site, used predominantly by girls, provides a perfect setting for creative minds to flourish, especially when it comes to wedding planning.

Senior Sara Schuler is one of the many students with a wedding board on Pinterest. In the same way fashion and photography images are collected, she has organized her dream wedding with a few simple clicks.

“My wedding board is the biggest, and my favorite. I have the whole thing planned now. There are so many good ideas on there,” said Schuler.

The future looks bright for the new social site, but the majority of users will most likely remain female. No visible effort has been made to incorporate males. audience, but that is perhaps what draws so many girls to the site.

interested. They don’t enjoy the simplicity of pretty things like girls

do. We always have these ideas in our heads and Pinterest gives us a tangible picture of what we want and a place to put it,” Holder said.

Pinterest is a rather feminine website, but girls certainly aren’t complaining. The site has become a refuge for many, allowing users to have complete creative control and share their inspirations with the rest of the virtual world.

## Fine arts students take down the competition in California

KERRI HUGHES  
*Staff Reporter*

Charlotte Catholic’s Musical Theater Competition Troupe is returning to California to compete in the Musical Theater Competition of America for the second year in a row.

The team, comprising juniors and seniors, has again qualified for the finals of the tournament, which will be held in Los Angeles, California.

time,” said junior Jenna Newman. “It’s going to be so much fun with everyone.”

Despite their enthusiasm, the team knows they had to buckle down and get things done.

“We started rehearsing even earlier this year,” said choral director Mrs. Tippet. “It’s really tough to get everything done and perfect, but these kids bring such professionalism to it, it’s a joy to work with them.”



JENNA NEWMAN (LEFT), KATIE GALLAGHER (MIDDLE) AND ANNA GALLUCI (RIGHT) WERE PART OF THE CREW WHO COMPETED IN CALIFORNIA  
PHOTO CREDIT: KERRI HUGHES

Last year, with a strong second place finish, the team established Charlotte Catholic’s name in the country’s theater community.

To enter the competition, each group chooses a composer and performs only his songs in every entry. This year, the team chose pieces by Cole Porter, known the musicals Anything Goes and Kiss me, Kate.

“It’s a really great selection. Cole Porter’s stuff is well known and fun to dance to. It’s really cool to make it our own,” said senior Natalie Myrick.

“It’s very fun and flirty, and it’s easy to get into character with such upbeat songs,” said senior Caitlyn Balkcum.

New and returning team members are dying in anticipation of their February 10 departure. In fact, when asked how they felt about the upcoming trip, all of the interviewed troupe members had one word to say.

“I’m so crazy excited,” said senior Joe Townsend. “It’s going to be totally new for me, and I get to do it with the people I love.”

“I’m even more excited than last

“We’ve been rehearsing literally every day after school since September,” said Myrick. “But it’s a great time because everyone’s always on task and brings such high energy to rehearsals.”

“It really is a bit of everything. Stressful, and frustrating, but still a lot of fun. I think the hard work will all pay off,” said senior Nick Pierle.

They hope all their hard work will pay off. Many of the members believe they will either match the ranking of last year, or, in the case of returning members, top it.

“I feel like I’ve really improved a lot over the last year,” said junior Zeke Edmonds. “We know what we’re going into now, so it’s going to be bigger and better.”

“We all mesh really well together, too,” said senior Colin Wilson. “It makes a great performance.”

Through the sweat, blood, and dance moves, the team hopes for a high ranking this year.

“It’s hard, but we produced something amazing,” said Wilson. “It’s always fun if you love what you’re doing, and we all do. I’m positive we’ll do great.”

## Who is Molly Finegan?

BRAD NELSON  
*Staff Reporter*

Ever wonder who the mysterious Molly that Mr. Healy refers to on the morning announcements is? It is Molly Finegan, and she is a remarkable young woman that Charlotte Catholic is lucky to have.

Just because Finegan is frequently late, as we all know thanks to Mr. Healy, doesn’t mean she is unimportant.

Finegan’s voice has been compared to the likes of Morgan Freeman and James Earl Jones; with such talent it is a blessing that she shows up to morning



MOLLY IS AN ADVENTUROUS GIRL WITH MANY INTERESTS  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRAD NELSON

back with the regal rats in stonecrest when I work, I listen to the Avett Brothers, I bother Katie Riddle, and I am always in pursuit of the perfect cardigan” said Finegan.

Finegan feels that her reputation has taken a shot due to Mr. Healy recognizing her tardiness in front of the entire school.

of the morning” said Finegan.

These lifestyle changes have made an incredible difference for Finegan. “With these changes not only am I on time to school, I now have time to make myself a nutritious breakfast, do my morning aerobics, and drive under the speed limit to school; it’s a great feeling” said Finegan.

Though Finegan suffers the humiliation of Mr. Healy’s commentary, she still has a strong passion for what she does.

“My favorite part of being on the announcements is hanging out with the thespians and people watching on the security cameras. If you think no one sees you speed walking around the corner during the pledge of allegiance... you are mistaken.” said Finegan.

Molly Finegan is not the mysterious troublemaker that she is made out to be on the morning announcements; she is actually an ambitious young woman with many goals.

“When Mr. Healy calls me out on the announcements it makes me want to be better. Life has changed dramatically for me since I have started to be publicly reprimanded for being late on the announcements. I have set my alarm earlier and shower at night instead

announcements at all.

Although she does a wonderful job keeping the school informed, there is more to Finegan than her habitual tardiness.

“I am just your average Charlotte Catholic cougar... I navigate around crowntown, I swim, apparently I play capture the flag a lot, I kick

# Sports

## Athletes continue sports careers at universities of their choice

Tyler Schilly  
Staff Reporter

With graduation only a few months away, several members of the class of 2012 are looking forward to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Several students have already committed to various colleges for sports ranging from football to gymnastics. Mark Harrell, Matt Cincotta, David Herlocker, Michael Moll, and Murphy Swancy will all be taking their football careers to the next level this fall. Harrell, an offensive lineman, had scholarship offers from renowned programs such as Stanford, Auburn, and Michigan, but decided last May to take his talents to South Bend and join the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Cincotta committed in September to play linebacker and long snapper for the Marshall Thundering Herd, and is expected to step right in and play as a freshman since Marshall's starting long snapper is graduating this spring. Herlocker will be heading north to Virginia this fall to play defensive back and wide receiver for

the Richmond Spiders, and Swancy and Moll will both continue their careers at Appalachian State. Lindsay McVeigh and Amanda Steiner helped the women's soccer team to a state championship last year and hope to build on that

placed second in the state this past season, will also be sending a player to the college level next year, with Johnny Archer committed to play at Presbyterian. Ashlyn Koletic has been a huge reason why the women's swim team is contending for a state championship yet again this year, and her hard work has paid off with a college scholarship. She considered UNC, Miami University, James Madison University, UNC Wilmington, and South Carolina, but will be joining NC State's swim team next season. "I liked the coaches and the team the best over the other schools, and State felt like the best fit for me," said Koletic. "The recruiting process was a great opportunity to see the school from a student's perspective. Instead of just

taking a tour of the school I got to stay on and off campus, go to classes, and really get a feel of the school and team," she said. The women's lacrosse team has two members committed to play collegiately this fall, Megan Patterson and Danielle Ruffalo. Patterson will be laxing for Winthrop, and Ruffalo will be a valuable addition to Belmont Abbey's squad. Catholic's baseball team went deep into the state playoffs last year, largely because of the contributions of infielder Eddie Hull. Hull's accomplishments for the Cougars and for his summer league team have earned him a spot on Wingate's roster for next spring. Kyle Johnson has been dominating North Carolina high school tennis since his freshman year, and will now take his game to the next level at DePaul University in Chicago. Johnson considered Virginia Tech, UNC Chapel Hill, Tulane, Wofford, Wake Forest, and Notre Dame before deciding to sign with DePaul. "I decided on DePaul because of playing opportunity. Also I wanted to be in a big city with lots to do, so the location and the academics were well-suited for me. I want to go into Business, maybe finance, and being in downtown Chicago would help me do some cool things," he said.

"Ever since I was 13 or 14 I have been looking forward to playing college tennis and signing with some D1 school, but I didn't know which one. It was a dream come true when I committed," said Johnson. Finally, although Catholic doesn't have a gymnastics team, Ryann Anderson has still pursued her passion for the sport, and will be continuing her career next year at the Air Force Academy. All these Cougar athletes are relieved that the recruiting process is over and are ready to get to work improving and helping their college teams. Kyle Johnson noted the stresses that came along with being recruited to play a college sport. "There was a lot of stress because you needed to perform and train hard day in and day out. Also, it was tough because I was always in competition with other recruits around the nation so I had to do better than them to get the spot, and if I didn't then I had to move on and look at other schools," he said. Catholic displays athletic excellence in men's and women's sports, and these students who have worked hard for four years are rewarded with the opportunity to compete in college.



ATHLETES FROM THE WOMEN'S SOCCER, GYMNAS-TICS, AND FOOTBALL TEAMS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 7TH SIGNING DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: TAYLOR LARSEN

## Women's Basketball teams travel to face unfamiliar opponents

TOMAS ROY  
Staff Reporter

Both the JV and Varsity Women's Basketball teams were recently given the opportunity to travel to and compete against York Catholic School in Pennsylvania. The teams flew to Pennsylvania on a Friday morning, spent the night, competed on Saturday, and returned to Charlotte the same day. While Charlotte Catholic lost both matches, many of the players agree this opportunity was a fun, memorable experience. Dick Keffer and family provided the transportation to Pennsylvania and back: four private jets flew the women's teams to York Catholic for the weekend. All airfare expenses were covered by the Keffers as a gift. Dick Keffer attended York Catholic School as a high school student many years ago. Players met at Charlotte Catholic early on a Friday morning and drove to the airport. Upon their arrival they shared lunch with members of the opposing team and then shadowed these students for the remainder of the school day. Practice was held after school for both York and Charlotte Catholic teams and was followed by York's JV and Varsity conference matches. Charlotte Catholic players paired up and spent Friday night at the homes of their opponents. Margot Corcoran, one of Catholic's JV players, was hosted by a family who lived on a farm. "Staying with another family that we didn't know was a really interesting experience"

said Corcoran. Both the JV and Varsity games were played on Saturday afternoon. York won the varsity match 56 to 36. Sophomore Ella Little thinks this may have been due to the team's low energy because of their busy Friday. "We woke up early and stayed busy for the rest of the day. We had a good time on Friday but it was exhausting," said Little. Senior Taylor Brock compared York's Women's basketball to Charlotte Catholic's football. "Our school's attitude towards our football team is like York's attitude towards their basketball teams. Basketball is a big deal for them and they're really good," said Brock. Brock also attributed the Varsity loss to the absence of two of Catholic's starting post players, Hannah Graznow and Onya Edwards. "Onya was really mad that she couldn't come," said Little. "We missed her on the court, too." Margot Corcoran recalls that the JV team lost by about 20 points as well. "I think we had a lot of trouble because of York's bouncy rims," said Corcoran. "None of our shots were going in. The rims at Catholic are much different." In spite of their losses, Catholic players still agree they had a good time. "It was a really good experience to see what York's school day was like," said Brock. Corcoran also enjoyed her time on the Keffer's private jets which provided free food and drinks for everyone. "It was really generous of them to give us this opportunity" said Corcoran.

## Bobcats disappoint Charlotte fans

NATHAN DOWD  
Staff Reporter

The Charlotte Bobcats have a less than excellent record so far in the 2011-2012 NBA season. As of Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, they have a 3-22 record in the regular season. The team seems to have a hard time gaining wins this season, and this losing trend isn't a recent development, either. The Bobcats have been playing since 2004, and in that time, they have only had one season where they had a positive win-loss ratio. They have always had a hard time matching up to the better teams in the NBA, but this season, unfortunately, is a new low for the Bobcats. Charlotte Catholic students are as unhappy as anyone about this season's statistics. Many have become so frustrated with their unfortunate record that they are more than willing to publicly bash the Bobcats. "The Bobcats?... I just don't watch them," said sophomore Ben Anderson. He is not alone in his opinion,

either. Most students replied with disgust when asked their opinion of the Bobcats, also saying they do not watch the games. "They're really terrible, just all around," said sophomore Brendan Begley. Many students have had a hard time liking the Bobcats because they frequently have a losing record. Despite their terrible record, though, they have many good players. Kemba Walker, a point guard who is a new addition to the team this season, is a prime example of this. He has distinguished himself as an excellent player, and has been recognized as such with numerous prestigious awards in college, directly before he signed on with the NBA. Not everybody at Catholic has abandoned the Bobcats, however.

Some students have remained fans even in the team's darkest hour. "I'm a season ticket holder, and I think the Bobcats are a good team, although they should stop trading players. They are a work in progress," said Sophomore Kyle Ruffalo. This faction of the school's population will remain faithful to the Bobcats no matter how bad their record may be. "I think they could be a lot better than they are right now, but they should play Kemba Walker more and just change things up," said Sophomore Bailey Quinn. Based on the way the Bobcats are playing right now, he may be right. Although some students express sentiments of hope for the Bobcats' future, they are the minority. The majority of CCHS has expressed their derision towards the Bobcats, and it isn't likely they will change their minds, at least not based on the team's record this season. The Bobcats might have the potential to be a better team than they are, but they are not using it. Whatever the Bobcats' problems may be, they need to step up their game in a big way if they want the admiration of Charlotte Catholic.



THE CHARLOTTE BOBCATS HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO EXPECTATIONS IN THE 2011-2012 SEASON. PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONALSPORTSBEATS.COM

# Sports

## Junior basketball player’s hard work shows in team’s impressive record

SAM LEFLORE  
Staff Reporter

This year’s men’s varsity basketball team is doing very well, helped out in part by junior Mark Pollack (33). Pollack is a 6’7” forward for the men’s varsity team. This is Pollack’s third year on the varsity squad and he is dominating.

“Mark is a great player. Most teams struggle guarding him because it is rare in high school basketball to have a big man who can step outside and consistently knock down long range shots, combine that with his great passing ability and he is a very dangerous player,” said junior guard David Belfield.

This season Pollack is averaging 14.6 points per game, second only to Robert Champion, who averages 20.2 points per game. He also averages 5.7 steals per game and 1.7 assists.

“My best game would either be against Brother Martin in the Christmas Tournament or



POLLACK IS SECOND ON THE TEAM IN POINTS PER GAME, AND PROVIDES A LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COUGARS VARSITY MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM. PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN BARKLEY

Ardrey Kell. In those 2 games Pollack averaged 22 points and 5.5

rebounds.

Pollack’s success on the court, however, does not come easy. He trains during and after the season.

“During the season I don’t lift as much, but in the offseason I try to get to the gym at least 5 times a week,” said Pollack.

Pollack also keeps his skills honed in the offseason by playing for the SC Raptors, a premier AAU basketball team based in the Carolinas.

Coach King has also been a major influence in Pollack’s training.

“He pushes us hard in practice, but we still have a good time,” said Pollack.

Offers from colleges have already started coming in for Pollack. He has been offered a full athletic scholarship at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina and has been scouted by multiple different schools.

“The two schools that I really hope to play basketball at are either Appalachian State University or the College of Charleston,” said Pollack.

Although he ultimately would love to be a professional basketball player, Pollack hopes that sports play a role in his post college life, whether it be an announcer, reporter, or scout.

Basketball was not always Pollack’s main sport, he used to play baseball and football, but now that he is in high school, he focuses mainly on basketball.

## Baseball mourns loss of strong senior class, looks ahead to upcoming young talent

RORY QUIGLEY  
Staff Reporter

The Catholic baseball team has recently begun their pre-season training for the upcoming spring season. The team has lost a number of seniors from the last year’s team, but approaching season remains promising.

Coached by Mr. Belk, the cougars finished last season with a record of 21-4 and were co-conference champions with West Mecklenburg.

Besides wanting to win the conference again, the team has set other goals for themselves.

“Our first goal is always to come together as a team and put together some wins. We always want to win the conference and should have a good chance to do that again this year,” said senior Eddie Hull. Hull has signed to play at Wingate next year and will be looked at as one of the main leaders for the team this season.

The team also looks towards the state championship; last season they lost to Marvin Ridge in the third round of playoffs.

The team’s biggest challenge this 2012 season is overcoming the loss of eleven former seniors. Eddie Hull will be the only returning starter on the team, but he is not worried.

“Without all those guys, we will definitely have some roles to fill. Our junior class is strong though and those guys should step up and help out a lot,” said Hull.

Coach Belk has been Catholic’s baseball coach for thirty two years

and will help the team progress through the season. While not the most hands-on coach, he lets the players help one another to build team comradery.

“Belk has been a great coach,” said Hull, “he lets us do our thing which makes it fun while still having productive seasons.”

Although there is only one returning starter, the junior class has some rising players that will do a great job to fill in the empty spaces in the field. Some juniors that will make a huge impression on the team this season are Chase Arnold, Christian Schwartz, and Jeff Ciesielski with pitchers Jordon Accetta and Jacob Bonen-Clark.

Jeff Ciesielki is a new student to Charlotte Catholic from Atlanta, but is certain to make a positive addition to the team.

The cougars will play their first season game on February 28.

## Junior Varsity Women’s Lacrosse changes rules regarding tryouts

EMILY FOSTER  
Staff Reporter

When Christmas break ends and winter sports begin to simmer down, its time for the lady cougars to dust off their lacrosse sticks and prepare for intense tryouts. JV lacrosse tryouts begin February 13, and with a new cut policy in place, the pressure is on for these ladies to sharpen their skills.

Tryouts consist of drills and running under the watchful eye of coach Jamie Collins, but according to past players, skills aren’t the only thing she is looking for during tryouts.

“Being on the women’s lacrosse team means that you are a player who works hard, has good stick skills, a good attitude, and who shows up on time to every practice. You have a commitment to the team and you can’t let your teammates down,” said sophomore Brittany Zavatsky.

In addition to attitude, skills are the key to securing one of the thirty slots on the team.

“I run every night, do planks and lunges, and practice at home by playing ‘wall ball.’ I’m hoping that with all of this training that I will be able to show what I have to offer



BECAUSE OF THE TURNOUT AT TRYOUTS IN RECENT YEARS, THE JV WOMEN’S LACROSSE COACHES HAVE DECIDED TO MAKES CUTS TO THIS YEAR’S TEAM INSTEAD OF ALLOWING EVERYONE TO PLAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HALEY DAVIES

on the thirteenth,” said sophomore Giannina Giamatti.

When the rumor got around that girls were going to be cut this year, some wondered if they would be ready in time for tryouts.

harder. I run miles with my friends after school to keep in shape and so if I make the team, it will feel so much more rewarding than if there weren’t cuts,” said freshman Emily Prys.

Although polishing skills and keeping good a attitude don’t guarantee a spot on the team, the girls continue to hope.

“Well the way I think of it is that all of the really good players will go to varsity, so hopefully that will open up a slot for me. I’ve been playing since seventh grade but I’m still unsure if I am going to make the cut. I’m just going to keep on training really hard and I guess we’ll see what happens!” said sophomore Kristen Kornbluth.

“With the new cut policy I am definitely nervous. Because there is not much time before tryouts, I am definitely pondering whether I should try out or not,” said sophomore Caitlyn Dest.

In contrast, some students feel that the cut policy has given them more motivation to make the lacrosse team. Several athletes play on traveling teams year round and sign up for the preseason workouts.

“Cuts make me extremely nervous but they also make me want to try

# Entertainment

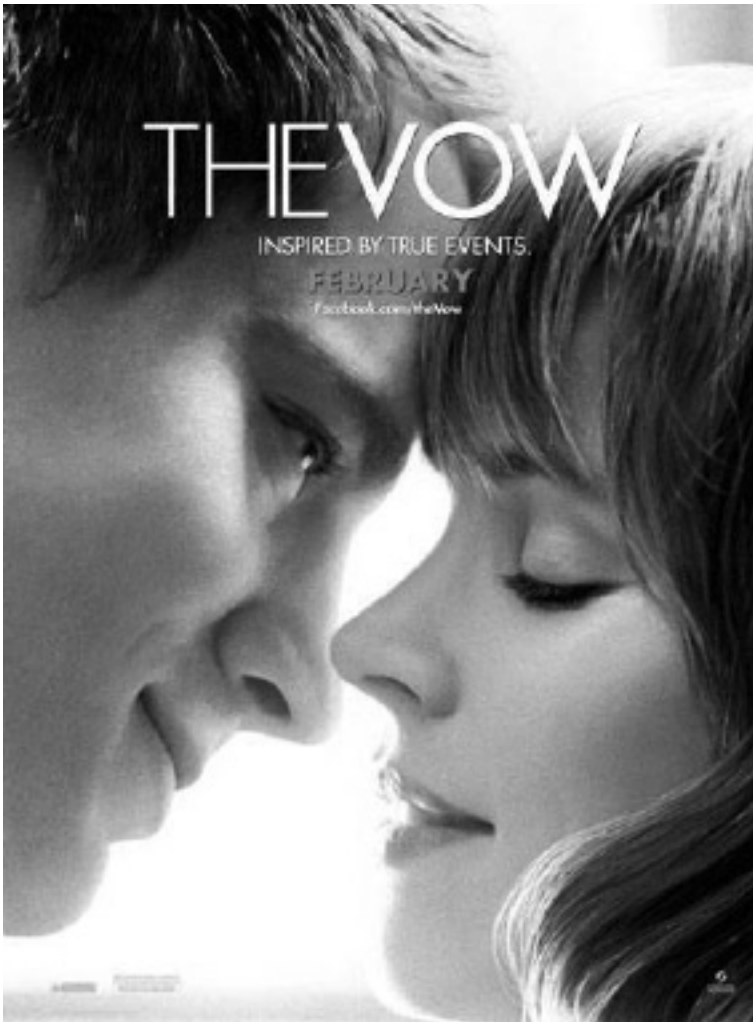
## “The Vow” leaves loveless and lonely just as loveless and lonely

LONELY GIRL  
*Guest Reporter*

As the loneliest girl around, I dread Valentine’s Day. It’s a reminder of how terribly alone I am, and how no one loves me. Although this day troubles me every year, I have not yet given up on the hope that someday I will fall deeply and madly in love. That’s why when I saw the trailer for ‘The Vow’ my heart did the cha-cha and I regained the belief that I will someday be in a fairytale.

This trailer had everything I ever desired to see in a film: Channing Tatum, Channing Tatum shirtless, Channing Tatum in his undercrackers, and a ridiculous love story I will try and model every relationship after. After watching the trailer, I vowed to myself I would see this original and compelling film on the day I despise, Valentine’s Day.

I left my cats with a sitter and I rushed to the theater two hours in advance. Already lines were formed, but I convinced myself it was well worth the wait if I could just stare into Channing’s deep and soulful eyes for just one second. I finally got into the theater and realized I was not the only lonely girl in the city of Charlotte. The movie begun, and I sat back and



BOTH SINGLE LADIES AND COUPLES FLOCKED TO THE THEATERS TO SEE THIS MUCH ANTICIPATED VALENTINE’S DAY BLOCKBUSTER.  
PHOTO CREDIT: THEHOLLYWOODSTORY.COM

enjoyed the show.

Two hours later, I walked out of the theater in a daze. I couldn’t possibly believe I had just wasted my money and time on such a poorly made and written film. Sure, the plot was sad, but it could have been ten times sadder. All lonely girls know that the sadder a romance movie is, the better. You see this hopelessly in love couple being charmingly and unrealistically in love for about five seconds and then BAM! She goes right through the windshield. If you arrived two minutes after the movie began, you might as well have gone home because you missed the most interesting part of the film.

Channing Tatum was thrown into a character that did not suit him in any way. He was surrounded by hipster friends and wore plaid shirts all the time, and that’s just not the way C-Tates rolls. Rachel McAdams does something horrible to her hair and is generally unlikeable for the majority of the movie.

The rest of the cast is stereotypically evil. The ex-fiancé is quick with the snide remark and wants her back! The family who hides secrets! The mother who is weak and super old looking! The whole movie you’re waiting for

something interesting to happen, but not much does. In fact, I’m shocked they managed to make the movie an hour and forty four minutes long because almost nothing happens.

When the end rolls around, it’s a mixture of relief and regret. Relief, because the movie is over and you can go home to your cats and re-watch episodes of Gilmore Girls, and regret, because IT IS THE WORST ENDING POSSIBLE. The movie dangles a carrot in front of your face for an HOUR AND FORTY-THREE MINUTES and in the last minute it replaces the carrot with some unwashed broccoli and forces you to eat it. It’s unfair, and I’m upset.

In summary, ‘The Vow’ misses the mark because it’s boring. Most things in the movie could have been overlooked if it were simply interesting, but aside from one or two scenes it’s a total snooze-fest. I had even brought along an entire box of Kleenex and didn’t feel the need to open it. I left the theater unfulfilled and just as lonely as before. All this being said, they did cram in every possible shot of Channing Tatum’s uncovered body as legally possible in a PG-13 movie, so bravo.

2 out of 5 litter-boxes.

## Rebelution returns to Charlotte, attracts Raggae fans

SAM LEFLORE  
*Staff Reporter*

Thursday, January 19 was the culmination of several months of anticipation and excitement for a handful of students at Charlotte



REBELUTION IS A REGGAE BAND ORIGINALLY FORMED IN 2004 OUT OF SANTA BARBARA, CA.  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRAD NELSON

Catholic. Rebelution, with guest stars Pep Love and The Grouch, performed for a hyped crowd at the Fillmore, which was one of their 42 stops on their national tour.

The band traveled cross country performing songs from their new album Peace of Mind. The album was released on January 10<sup>th</sup> and proved to be very successful in stores. The new album was revolutionary,

combining multiple genres of music such as reggae, rap, and jazz.

Last summer, Rebelution performed in Charlotte as an opening act for the band Slightly Stoopid, drawing a less than impressive crowd. Nevertheless,

the band returned to Charlotte this winter and was welcomed by hundreds of screaming fans.

Junior Wilson Brown was one of the few Charlotte Catholic students that attended the concert. “I had never really listened to Rebelution before the concert, but my friends coerced me into going. The show was incredible and it was something I will remember for the rest of my

life, I’m really glad I went,” said Brown.

Although the tour was promoting their new album, the band also played some of their old hits off of older albums

“I really liked when they played their old songs such as “Feelin Alright” and “Bright Side of Life”. Rebelution is one of my favorite bands and I really enjoyed the concert” said Junior Winston Conrad.

The concert drew a very diverse crowd with people from all over Charlotte. Fans filled the standing entire room area from wall to wall and with hardly any room to spare.

“At one point in the concert, I found myself lying on the ground due to the high volume of attendees. It was hard to move around with so many people at the concert” said Conrad.

Low expectations for the opening acts of Pep Love and The Grouch, left attendees pleasantly surprised.

“Coming in to the concert, the Grouch’s music did not appeal to me at all. But now my opinion is changed, he put on a great show” said junior Adam Arenas.

All three artists share the same message in their music; they encourage peace and promote all their listeners to “drop the hate.” In a world where there is so much to be sad about, Rebelution helps people to find the “Bright Side of Life.”

## “The Woman in Black” fails in originality

BRETT HEINZ  
*Staff Reporter*

In my past movie reviews, I have tended to agree with most professional critics; however, this movie is a definite exception.

“The Woman in Black,” released February 3rd, tells the story of Arthur Kipps, played by Daniel Radcliffe, who is a young lawyer from a large English law firm sent to search through the documents of a deceased woman to sell her house.

Upon arriving at the gloomy village in which the house is located however, he learns the estate he was sent to examine is haunted by a woman who kills the village’s children. An obvious “haunted house” movie, the story fails to intrigue the viewer, sticking to the exact formula of the cliched horror movie without the slightest hint of originality.

Daniel Radcliffe, who was surely cast to appeal the large demographic of Harry Potter fans, is convincing as an actor, but simply not given a character with any dimension. Contrary to how someone would actually act in his situation, Radcliffe’s character makes all the horrible decisions of a million horror movie protagonists before him, such as following a trail of bloody footprints, searching for the menacing noises upstairs, and staying in the haunted house after he clearly sees a dead woman staring at him.

The movie also contains continuity errors of epic proportions, such as the scene where Radcliffe (accompanied by another character,) drives down a road which he clearly states was flooded over twenty seconds before.

There is also the issue of the movies actual “scares,” including a crow flying out of nowhere and faces randomly appearing behind a character. By relying solely upon jump scares for cheap thrills, the movie fails to leave viewers a haunting impression, leaving instead the feeling of adrenaline after tripping.

To make up for where the plot and acting openly fail in tension, the movie tries to rely upon atmosphere instead, only to fail in that area as well. The haunted house (an overused idea in the first place,) could have easily been the interior for any and every ghost movie in the last 30 years, ranging from “The Evil Dead” to “The Grudge.” The various motifs suggest the writers just watched a horror movie marathon and took notes, as they were sure to include pale children, wind-up dolls, graveyards, and the resurrected dead.

After all is said and done, “The Woman in Black” is a pedestrian storyline reliant on jump-right-at-the-screen scares, cliched themes, and a single headlining movie star to convince people it is worth their time and money to view.

# Opinion - Editorial

## Valentine’s Day means nothing for singles at Catholic

**RORY QUIGLEY**  
*Staff Reporter*

Across the nation, Valentine’s Day is a single day of the year set aside for couples and couples alone to express their love and gratitude for one another. While this is a great and special day for those with a significant other, what does this mean for the other half that do not currently have such a counterpart?

One can argue that that Valentine’s Day should be felt by all, just as maybe Christmas spreads those warm and fuzzy feelings, which translate into caring and almsgiving. However, Valentine’s Day still remains as a miniscule holiday for many people.

“Valentine’s Day is just another day of the week,” said junior Chris Daly, “I respect that some people enjoy it, but for me, it’s not that big of a deal.”

It would be hard to find anyone who proudly acknowledged that Valentine’s Day was their favorite holiday. And if that person absolutely loves the holiday, you can bet that he or she has someone which they can share this overrated holiday with.

The elementary school traditions

of filling shoeboxes of candy has long since passed, thus diminishing the biggest reason why we, as kids, remained loyal to this day. While some still carry on the tradition of bringing in valentines, most are store bought and given out in

person.

If anything Valentine’s Day has become a marketing tool for major department stores such as Hallmark, Wal-Mart, and Target with their demographics focusing on young children and unmarried

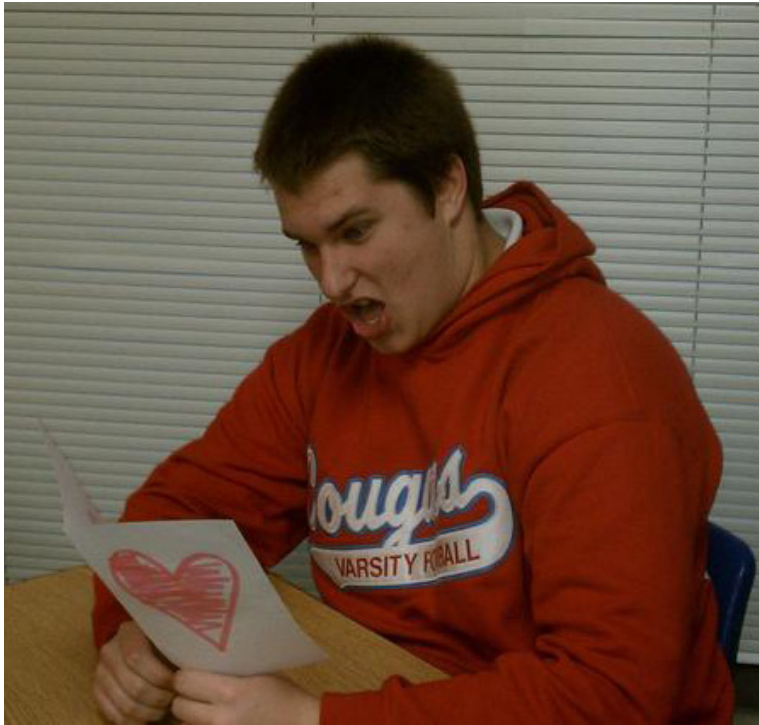
and married couples, not single men and women. Why? Because marketing strategists know that a married couple is more likely to exchange cards and gifts, and the single man or woman will not think twice about the holiday.

This marketing ploy does not wait for a sensible time like February to come around; they immediately begin sales and commercials as if the company can only produce profit through specific American holidays no matter how insignificant.

Gender can also play a role about the how someone looks at Valentine’s Day. While there are both men and women who do adore the holiday, one would be more inclined to find a woman getting in the spirit of the holiday than a man.

“I love bringing in valentines every year for my friends,” said junior Jenna Calderone, “and I do think that there are defiantly more girls, single or not, who look forward to Valentine’s Day.”

But for most of us who remain indifferent to February 14, the emotional clichés of butterflies in your stomach and secret admirers have past.



TO SOME PEOPLE, VALENTINE’S DAY SEEMS TO BE MORE OF A MERKETING SCHEME.  
PHOTO CREDIT: RORY QUIGLEY

## Reality TV shows far from realistic, still attract audiences

**EMILY FOSTER**  
*Staff Reporter*

On average, a teen watches twenty-eight hours of television per week, adding up to almost 15,000 hours a year, more hours than we attend school. Studies have shown that most of the hours spent watching TV is spent on vulgar shows such as Jersey Shore, Keeping Up With the Kardashians, and Family Guy.

These numbers may seem overwhelming but the fact is that teenagers just can’t get enough of the crude humor in these shows and the question is...why?

When you ask any teenager why they watch a show like Jersey Shore, you typically will get an answer like “It’s hilarious!” or “I don’t know, they are all just good role models of who not to be like I guess.” But why not watch something different then? There are plenty of humorous television shows. There is a certain reason why students are choosing to turn on MTV rather than the Discovery Channel or Animal Planet.

“Well reality TV gives us an opportunity to live through a group of people we have nothing in common with, in situations we would never confront in our normal, day-to-day lives! I don’t know about everyone else, but I certainly don’t go clubbing every night. I find it fascinating,” said



REALITY TV SHOWS LIKE JERSEY SHORE PROVIDE AN ESCAPE FOR AUDIENCES AND ALLOW THEM TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH THE OUTRAGEOUS LIVES OF THE CAST.  
PHOTO CREDIT: FANPOP.COM

senior Alexandra Mead.

The fact of the matter is that reality TV really is not reality, and that makes it all the more attractive. Escaping reality for teens is one of the biggest struggles in high school, and watching something like Keeping Up With the Kardashians has students thinking, “wow, my life really isn’t as screwed up as I thought; It could definitely be a lot worse!”

On the other hand, some

students feel like cast members on these shows are good role models and find pop culture and a life of partying glamorous.

“I love Snooki! I mean, if she can become rich from just going out with friends every night and acting inappropriately then, why can’t I?” said sophomore Valeria Coruzzi.

While some students don’t see any problem with vulgar television, the truth is that we’re not hooking up with our room-mates (or at least

we shouldn’t be). We won’t get into serious fistfights with our friends. The reason students love shows like Jersey Shore is because we don’t relate to it at all. It seems completely foreign to us, in every way imaginable, and therein lies the appeal of the show.

Well, it’s either that or we just seek entertainment, and it’s hard to deny that a show like Jersey Shore isn’t entertaining, at least in a “wow, I’m watching a train-wreck live on television” kind of way.

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